

# Times-Dispatch

DAILY—WEEKLY—SUNDAY.

Business Office, 1116 E. Main Street.  
 Washington Bureau, 1226 F. Munsey Building.  
 Manchester Bureau, 1112 1/2 Hill Street.  
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 Daily with Sunday, \$6.00 \$2.00 \$1.50 .35  
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 Weekly (Wednesday), 1.00 .50 .25 .10

By Times-Dispatch Carrier Delivery Service in Richmond (and suburbs), Manchester and Petersburg.

One Week. One Year.  
 Daily with Sunday, 14 cents \$6.50  
 Daily without Sunday, 10 cents 4.50  
 Sunday only, 5 cents 2.50

(Yearly subscriptions payable in advance.)  
 Entered January 27, 1902, at Richmond, Va., as second-class matter under act of Congress of March 3, 1879.

## HOW TO CALL TIMES-DISPATCH.

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FRIDAY, MARCH 27, 1908.

## PRISON REFORM.

The people of the State will naturally expect much of the new Board of Charities and Corrections. All who are acquainted with the facts know that there is a crying need for many reforms in the treatment of prisoners. We have no sympathy with the maudlin sentiment entertained by some toward breakers of the law. We see no heroism in murder and no chivalry in burglary or highway robbery. All of the foes of the law—the land, from Robin Hood to Jesse James and Devil Dick; are in our opinion, simply felons. Neither would we advocate such treatment of prisoners as would be an encouragement for the idle or vicious to look upon a sentence with longing or complacency.

Nevertheless, we believe that the dictates of humanity require that prisoners should be properly fed, decently clothed and comfortably housed; that they should be given sufficient exercise for their minds and bodies to prevent mental and physical deterioration, and that care should be taken to dispose of them in such a manner as to prevent the spread of physical and moral contagion.

In the first place, there should be a different system of feeding and lodging prisoners. Now they are farmed out, so to speak, and the jailers are allowed so much per head. If they can feed and lodge them for any less they are at liberty to pocket the difference. This is a temptation for a custodian of prisoners to enrich himself at the expense of the health, and perhaps the lives, of citizens of the Commonwealth. Under this system the humane and generous jailer will spend more than his allowance, which he should not be required to do, and the mean and grasping jailer will stint his prisoners to the last point, which he should not be allowed to do. A competent board should prescribe for each jail the amount to be expended in feeding and lodging prisoners, and the jailer should receive a salary for buying, cooking and serving the food and providing the lodging. It is little short of barbarous that anybody should derive profit from the hunger or cold of a prisoner.

It would seem unnecessary to say that white and colored prisoners should be separated, yet, it reports be true, there are many jails in this State where this separation is not invariably practiced. Furthermore, the prisoners awaiting trial, and who may be entirely innocent, should not be penned up with those who have already been convicted. Those guilty of trifling offenses should not be confined with the hardened criminals; yet, we know that this mingling of all grades of prisoners is continually permitted in many jails of the State, with the result that many a careless boy, who receives a jail sentence for some trifling misdemeanor, may learn from daily contact with professional criminals the false fascination and the elusive profit of a career of crime. Too much stress cannot be laid upon the necessity for regular exercise and hygienic requirements. Prison palors should be unknown in a civilized country. There should be a rigid physical examination of each prisoner at the beginning of his sentence and those found suffering from contagious or infectious diseases should be isolated from the rest. Divisions should be provided sufficient to keep up the spirits and give the mind a healthy tone. Of course, all of the influences which would have a tendency to improve their mental and moral condition should be extended as far as possible. These things may well be done without making a prison a palace, or even an agreeable resort for the thrifless, and they would mark a vast improvement in the system in vogue in the jails of some of our counties and cities.

It is known that many of these jails are cold, damp and unsanitary. In some the whites and the blacks, the innocent and the guilty, the young and the old, the beginner and the professional, the sick and the well, the clean and the unclean, are herded together in a manner best calculated to harden, humiliate and embitter them all and at the same time make them more effectual than anything else could do for a continuous career of crime.

It must be borne in mind that for many of these conditions the jailers are not responsible, as they can only use the facilities provided for them, and can only do the best they can under the system which they find. It should also be remembered that prisoners, as

a class, have few friends, and a large portion do not present a strong invitation to our interest or sympathy. The State, however, should take a practical view of the matter, and should spare neither pains nor expense to prevent our jails becoming hotbeds of vice or schools for crime.

## BIMBERG AND THE CANDIDATES.

One of the foremost political prophets of the day has just passed on into the beyond. His full name was Bimberg the Button Man, but among his friends, and they were many, he responded without embarrassment to the shortened "Bim." Bim's business success hinged upon his ability to pick nominees; for Bim's business, as long as he was in it, was that of manufacturing buttons bearing the graven faces of approved candidates. These buttons, as every one knows, are manufactured by the billion, and blossom on countless coat-lapels during the months preceding a grand new deal at the ballot box. Especially are they in evidence at the national conventions and immediately thereafter.

Now the very pith, meat and soul of the button business is to get the right face upon the buttons. It would obviously be the pinnacle of recklessness, for instance, to try to force a million gross of Knox buttons on a lot of men who have just come home from nominating Leslie M. Shaw. No man living is a good enough forger for that. Nor will it do to wait until the convention has named its man and then proceed to grease up the wheels of the button-factory. A bolder rival, who had staked his money on the accuracy of his prognosticating department, would, in that case, certainly have stepped in and skimmed off the very cream of the trade. No, in the button business a man must be a good guesser or go into receiver's hands. That Bim was superlatively such a guesser is indicated by the fact that he long ago retired from industry and had of late given his time wholly to the care of his real estate investments.

But Bim's predilection, sharpened in the duress of competition, worked on. His telescope still swept the windy horizon. His mortality tables still evolved the irresistible Q. E. D. Bim, in short, though a retired capitalist, still determined the destiny of buttons. A few days before his death he sent his flat forth, Mr. Roosevelt was to be nominated at Chicago, and Mr. Bryan was not to be nominated at Denver. That was the tip which he passed on, gratis, to his old competitors. We are confident that they will think long before rejecting it. Unfortunately the hand of death has circumscribed them, and Bim can never tell them now what they are to put on those buttons which are not to bear the portrait of Mr. Bryan. The view will undoubtedly prevail in certain quarters that he intended these buttons to be left blank, symbolic, as it were, of the present expression on the face of the Democratic party.

## THE ELIMINATION OF THE DARK HORSE.

Did the so-called dark horse ever cut much of a figure in the history of national political conventions? A well-informed correspondent of the Boston Transcript argues that he did not. Zachary Taylor, he admits, was "a new man in politics," and so might be placed in the rank of surprise candidates. But he utterly scorns the notion that William Henry Harrison could be so called, with apparently ample ground; and lays it down as a general truth that neither of the great parties has ever selected a standard-bearer so obscure as to make his name a positive novelty to the electorate. "Even Polk," he says, "on whom humorous stories are to the surprise of his nomination concentrate, was at least as well known to his countrymen as Speaker Cannon is to the American people of to-day."

Polk was Speaker of the Twenty-fourth and Twenty-fifth Congresses, but probably the latter statement is open to serious question. Moreover, Polk's nomination was surprising for the excellent reason that his name had been so little associated with such a contingency. Cannon's nomination would be surprising merely in the way that any unlikely event is surprising. But surely his name has been associated with it often enough; everybody who reads newspapers knows that he is the owner of a boom and that he might be his party's nominee were there not so many other candidates in the way. Cannon could in no sense be called a dark horse now. In fact, whatever part the dark horse may have played in past history, it seems plain that his activities have now been pretty definitely eliminated from national convention possibilities.

Nowadays, for many months before a presidential election, the press of the entire country is centred full upon every conceivable phase of the prospects and probabilities of it. The fields of both parties are raked as with a fine-tooth comb. The "chances" of every Thomas, Richard and Henry who has the remotest imaginable claim, three times removed, are daily discussed and elucidated with varying degrees of seriousness and hopefulness. Thus, when the convention meets, six, eight or a dozen names have long been familiarly connected with the potential occurrences of the momentous day. A man who was dark equine enough not to be among that coterie would be a poor, pitiful fellow, indeed. Further, the holding of the various State conventions for the election of delegates has enabled every one to see plainly which way the wind is blowing. The newspapers have kept everybody who is in the least interested thoroughly posted on the number of delegates that Smith, Jones and Robinson, respectively, have been instructed for them. Thus the result is often a foregone conclusion, and the possibility of either upsets or upstarts is largely eliminated.

Under existing conditions, all this

is probably just as well. The character of the modern national convention makes it largely incapable of discharging the two duties to which it nominally attends—namely, defining its party's principles and agreeing upon its party's leader. Mr. Bryce has left on record his surprise at the size and unwieldiness of bodies intrusted with such difficult and delicate tasks; and conventions have grown, not diminished, since "The American Commonwealth" was published. Jammed into a vast building, over which only the most powerful vocal chords can make themselves effective, overrun with swarms of sight-seers and money-makers, the centre of incessant shouting and din indescribable, the convention finds itself much more a spectacle than an intelligent machine for the efficient transaction of business. The introduction into such an atmosphere of an unknown of merits so overwhelming and so easily demonstrable that he could carry all before him becomes all but unthinkable.

## ROASTS FOR ROOSEVELT.

President Roosevelt, who can bellow louder, abuse more roundly and describe more pungently than any public writer in America, has ceased to oblige. After the roar of the mighty lion, the gentle coo of a sucking dove is sweetly restful. Wherefore the weakling, the craven, the mollicious, the ruthless blackmailer, the criminal rich, the predatory millionaire and all the piratical and pusillanimous crew which he has so valiantly harassed can breathe in peace. New York is rubbing its eyes at the transformation scene enacted at the White House.

Says the New York American: If the President's message is to be construed, as it must be, into an appeal for the passage of the Hepburn bill, it is fair evidence that the panic has seized the White House and carried demoralization to the Chief Executive.

It is a long jump which the President has made in a night from the idol of the plain people of the country to the smiles and cheers and adulations of the great thoughtless which they have never learned to love or trust.

Nor is the President's position likely to be satisfactory to the laboring men of the country. It adds nothing to the advantages which the laborer has to American labor, but it distinctly takes away some of the vantage ground already enjoyed. We are inclined to think that the Chief Executive will hear from the leaders of the labor movement before he is able to sleep.

And the New York World comments: In other circumstances, which would lead to believe that the hand might no longer ago than January 31st purposed to "cut out rottenness from the body politic" is the same hand that is now so gently massaging all the sore spots in the elements of political hygiene.

The message fully confirms the report that a Republican national convention will be held June 16th and that there will be a presidential election in November, at which his policies are to be submitted to the people. If anybody who votes contributes to a campaign fund was overlooked in the preparation of this special message it was not because Theodore Roosevelt does not aim to please.

While the classic, dignified and esthetic Evening Post sums up the situation thus:

There will doubtless be flippant remarks on the contrast between the gentle roving of the President's message to-day and the cat-o'-nine-tails violence of the one he sent to Congress on January 31st. If this is the right tone for a state paper, that was distinctly the wrong one; and it is, as Lord Palmerston observed, the tone that makes the speaker in the end a blunderer. But will not dwell upon the condemnation of his own previous methods which is implied in the quiet communication which Mr. Roosevelt makes to Congress to-day. He inevitably recalls that servant of the people who, in a plate-warmer with a crash, but who hastened to assure his master that nothing was broken. "Do you mean to tell me," demanded Sheridan, "that you made all that noise for nothing?"

All told, the message and the political negotiations which its back of it are to be taken as intended to set the Republican party in battle array. Democrats who had been foolishly thinking that Republican divisions and quarrels would give them an easy victory must now be ready to blunder. The Republican genius for political generalship is once more in evidence. It has even been equal to inducing the Rough Rider to get off his horse and turn his Big Stick into an olive branch.

From this multitude of counsel and comment emerges one indubitable fact: the Republicans will remain in power if platforms, planks and messages will keep them there.

Frank Hitchcock repeats that Mr. Taft will be nominated on the platform. And thus with needless footnotes and many a hasty swipe at the spy-glass, does Frank continue to stalk the Postmaster-Generalship of the United States.

"A man claiming to be a prophet," says the Houston Post, "has arrived in Houston and declares he has returned from hell." Such of our readers as are in the know will have no difficulty in guessing that the poor prophet, plainly a lunatic with no bump of prophecy, has gotten his directions sadly mixed.

"A Swiss lecturer says Esperanto can be learned in a week," notes the Washington Post. However, most people have something better to do with their weeks.

## Rhymes for To-Day.

### THE DOTY DIALOGUES.

15. The Case of the Illiberal Grand Master.  
 HE sent his man-in-law to bed,  
 Provided with a muzzle;  
 She picked another chop and said:  
 "I dearly love to guzzle!"

"Do try," she coaxed, "this luscious slab  
 Of extra-special salmon."  
 But he responded: "Stow your gab—  
 I'm off to play backgammon."

She ate till nearly 12 that night  
 With hunger hyperbolic.  
 The doctor came, his face turned white—  
 Said he: "I fear it's colic."

He giggled long and hard at that—  
 "I hate to act the shady."  
 Shrieked he, "But I won't stay—that's flat—  
 To nurse a sickly lady."

The doctor cried: "But, man—my feel  
 'You're never going to shrink us!"  
 Laughed he: "The lass is naught to me—  
 Just send her to the work-us."

He bought a long red beard that day  
 And striking pale-green goggles,  
 And lived for years in Paraguay  
 As Ezra Hiram Scroggles.

THE Richmond Times-Dispatch thinks its baseball team will occupy the most illustrious and end position of any team in the country this season. Of course, Washington has prescriptive rights to that place, but it will not urge them.—Washington Herald.

Henry Snyder Harrison is much bothered about the Detroit lady who values her knees at \$75,000 per. We fancy that the lady is worried, too. It must be awful to have your knees not have any modicum with the market stone dead.—Houston Post.

A noiseful gun is nothing, observes the Richmond Times-Dispatch. What the country wants is a noiseful son of a gun.—Franklin P. Spectator.

"Virginia lumber for Virginia alone" is the Richmond Times-Dispatch idea. This Democratic party is determined to spare no presidential timber to spare.—Atlanta Constitution.

The Times-Dispatch will print signed letters on all questions which relate to the public welfare. Such letters should be sent to the editor, 150 words, except under exceptional circumstances, should be signed with the full name of the writer, and should be held subject to publication. The name of the writer will be withheld if desired.

## Voice of the People.

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Editor of The Times-Dispatch: Sir—Permit me to thank The Times-Dispatch for its patriotic efforts in behalf of reform and good government; also the valuable work done by Mr. Lewis H. Machen, in his kind analyses of the "work done" by the Legislature, which have appeared in your columns from day to day.

I concur with you in the opinion that it was an able body of representatives, conservative and not subject to corporate domination. They are also entitled to high credit for their faithful and diligent manner in which they labored for the accomplishment of their herculean task in season and out of season. But it is human to err, and it is not surprising that in the hurry-burly and rush of legislation there have not been mistakes made, but in excusable blunders, in permitting some laws, which are absolutely necessary for the integrity of our institutions, to be "choked off" by the small body of retainers and parasites which infest the Capitol, simply by objecting to their passage. Such a course is a disservice to the people, and it is a pity that you do not permit a minimum of obstructionists to clog the wheels of legislation and defeat measures of the greatest importance to the State, not because they are unsound or imprudent, or unwise, but because they are opposed by the petty officials? When the body convenes on the 25th inst., a caucus of the Democratic party should be called at once, and a joint resolution adopted, pledging the Legislature not to adjourn until the most important of these acts are placed upon our statute book.

I would name the bill providing for a "uniform, improved and up-to-date system of bookkeeping," which should be adopted by all departments and institutions of the government, State and county. If we but consider the fact that this Assembly has appropriated \$1,000,000 to be expended during the next two years; that nearly all salaries and allowances have been increased, and appropriations augmented, without making any reform in the "system of accounting and bookkeeping" in vogue, in the face of the report of the Auditing Committee of the House and Senate, at least two members of which are in the present body, it is a shame that the Legislature should stand up and be counted, and take notice of what party is running the State government. Certainly the Speaker of the House is not responsible, for it was the first subject to which he alluded in his opening address to the caucus which nominated him.

What does the Auditing Committee say? "We cannot too strongly urge a complete reconstruction of the system of accounting now practiced in nearly all the departments of the State government, and is a shame that the Legislature should stand up and be counted, and take notice of what party is running the State government. Certainly the Speaker of the House is not responsible, for it was the first subject to which he alluded in his opening address to the caucus which nominated him."

Are we to understand that the Washington Post would sternerly oppose the appointment of Dan L. Riffe, a yellowman, as chief of the laundry-bureau at the Annals Clubhouse?

Let the news that meat prices are to go up be accepted by the dubious as conclusive proof that they were once down.

A high power Gatling gun is the only thing we know of which can make as many reports in a day as Mr. Herbert Knox Smith.

"A famous Russian terrorist has died naturally," says the Boston Herald.

And yet again, if money did not talk, something just as bad certainly would.

Of course, cynical Democrats cannot refrain from making the tariff as the Mr. Mcawber of political lies.

## Kinetic Energy

Kinetic is a good word. It means "power to make things go." A fat bank account, a rock on the edge of a hill, a barrel of gunpowder, and SCOTT'S EMULSION all contain "kinetic energy," so the professor tells us.

## Scott's Emulsion

This force let loose in the system of the consumptive gives him the strength to take on new flesh. It is a powerful flesh-producer.

All Druggists, 50c. and \$1.00.

the manner demanded by every consideration of policy and expediency, not to mention the necessity of the case, is to the writer what Bismarck called "an incomprehensible anomaly."

III. "Primary elections." Is the Democratic party in favor of honest elections or not? For the fourth time an act looking to the accomplishment of this laudable and necessary result has been defeated by the old-time politicians, who have turned their attention from packing and dominating political conventions to manipulating our present farcical, loose and illegal primaries. Those patriotic gentlemen who stuffed the ballot box to keep the American gentlemen of African descent out of the Senate are still at the old stand doing business. Why so much juggling? We are in the midst of a revolution and an evolution. There is great disaffection among the masses of the people on account of the sins of omission and commission of the Democratic party. The Republican party carry the State this fall, which is not at all improbable, who will be to blame if they reap where the Democrats have sown, and gather where they have strewn?

Collect, Democrats, that there is no Tartarus for political parties—they have to eat the fruit of their own doings in this world. Verb, SAP. S.

RICHARD W. GAINES.  
 Mossingford, Va., March 20, 1908.

Faithless Beauty of W. J. Bryan.  
 Editor of The Times-Dispatch: Sir—Napoleon ordered David to paint a portrait of him in his own hand, and he was to be made more agreeable than they actually were. Other artists of the period, anxious to curry favor with the monarch, ordered David to paint a particular and painted portraits of Napoleon in which every feature was imitated upon. For instance, Napoleon's forehead was famous for its high forehead. But the famous snuff-box portrait represents him as having a very high head. The difference between this forehead and the actual forehead of Napoleon was something wonderful to Napoleon. But not a great man and a great possessor of an ideal beauty, he wished to impose on posterity the belief that he was as handsome as a peach. Such a man will inspire rather approve of this idea. If we are to choose representative men to rule over us, why not select a man of the type of Napoleon? Why have we inspired awe in foreign diplomats? Why have we a little chunky, sandy-haired man like Roosevelt trying to look dignified, and only five feet five inches tall?

If, on the other hand, it be possible to find a man of the type of Napoleon, almost perfect in manly beauty, as well as far superior to all others in mental power, why not pick him out to be ruler? Such a man will inspire respect, even though he be "seen and not heard." The question is, is there such a man eligible for the presidency of the United States? I think so. Yes, W. J. Bryan fills the bill. He is six feet one inch tall, and intellectually is unequalled; is well proportioned in his mouth and well shaped, and sufficient in size to back up the forehead and to give an expression of intelligence and power, thus enhancing his beauty of the almost perfect features.

Now, Mr. Editor, for this cause will you not throw aside your antagonism to Bryan and support him for his physical advantages? What boots government ownership of railroads, provided we have a man at the throttle who will not run the country for his own part of every one who beholds him? Caesar told the craven bootmaker: "Fear not! Thou carrier, Caesar, and I, we have a man at the throttle who will not run the country for his own part of every one who beholds him." So say I, with Bryan as our ruler we will brave every fate, knowing that history will record the glorious fact that he was a man of the type of Napoleon. PATRIOT.

Richmond, Va., March 22, 1908.

Praise for Daniel.  
 Editor of The Times-Dispatch: Sir—There is at present no man in the country who is more popular and unselfishly interested in the South than Senator Daniel, of Virginia. Especially do North Carolinians delight to honor him for his great ability and sterling worth; therefore they would deplore his exit from the councils of the nation, as it would be an irreparable loss to the South, and to the whole country; hence it is with anxiety they witness the unnatural contest now being waged against this great statesman. North Carolinians think the Senator has the right to exercise his judgment, and they know that he will not betray the trust reposed in him. He is the only man who has had the courage to beard the lion in his den, and there are thousands of loyal Democrats who entertain his sentiments, and who will follow in his footsteps. In sporting circles a horse, however well groomed, can only inspire confidence if it is known he has twice been unsuccessful on the turf. But the horse whose mettle has never been tested and ability exhibited is sure more favorably to impress the minds of the sporting fraternity than the fortunes whose failures are prominent to the world.

NORTH CAROLINIAN.  
 Henderson, N. C., March 25, 1908.

Daniel for President.  
 Editor of The Times-Dispatch: Sir—Your paper, in which they are trying to sidetrack J. W. Daniel as a delegate-at-large to Denver, why not send him to the Democratic National Convention as a conservative man, and that is the kind of man we want.

We do not want a man like Bryan. He is too radical, too prone to oppress the railroads and large corporations too much, and you see what it has caused. Look at the misery.

The Northern States will stand by Major Daniel, but they will not stand by Mr. Bryan.

The South is for Daniel. He would stand a better chance of winning than Mr. Bryan.

DEMOCRAT.

## Bureau of American Republics

### BY FREDERIC J. HASKIN.

To-day in Washington bids on the new home of the International Bureau of the American Republics will be opened. Should any one of these prove acceptable, work will begin at once, and in the imposing mass of stone which will house the bureau next season, a most interesting chapter of the national history will find permanent memorial, and the spirit of good fellowship between the leading American republics will be one of the most unusual and interesting in the history of all the world, the one nearest like it in object being the Empire of Peace, now under construction at La Hague.

The building, when completed ready for occupancy, will have cost \$1,000,000. Of this \$350,000 was given by Mr. Carnegie and \$250,000 by the American countries represented in the famous Pan-American Congress of the corner of Seventeenth and B Streets, Washington, facing the White House on the east and Potomac park on the south. One hundred and thirty of the leading architects of North America entered designs in the contest, and the winners were Albert Kelsey and Paul G. Behrman, architects of Philadelphia. Since twenty of the twenty-one American republics are of Latin origin, the building is to be a suggestion of Latin-American treatment, and at the same time it will harmonize with the general tone of architecture that is symbolic of the new world. The building has found its latest verification in the Corcoran Art Gallery, the municipal building and the Union Station.

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of the aims of the institution is to encourage travel between the nations, whether for business or pleasure. Believing that the educational spirit of the world is being awakened and bettered by intercourse with each other, the bureau has planned a scheme for the exchange of representative scholars and publicists between the nations. It has likewise put forth a strong plea for the introduction of the Spanish, Portuguese languages in the curricula of the schools of the United States, and of the English language in those of South America. It has provided the leading colleges and universities of all the republics with lists of books that give information regarding the political, historical, industrial and material progress of each country.

The history of the Pan-American Bureau is short when measured in years, but infinitely long when measured in achievements. Through its influence the winged god of commerce has far surpassed the stately pace of the solar year, and the nations of the Americas are moving along at a dizzying pace toward the world's markets. In October, 1907, the Pan-American International Conference of the Americas, held in Washington, James G. Blaine, then Secretary of State, presiding. Resolutions of mutual help, the bureau for mutual help. When the second conference was held in Mexico in 1901, resolutions were passed continuing the bureau, but it was at the third conference in Rio Janeiro in 1906 that the institution was enlarged to its present scope, and was placed on the permanent basis of a future, a more important and world-acknowledged factor in the commerce and friendly intercourse of the nations.

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